WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspectors
of the Districts

for the year

1970

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THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL

AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for 1970. As in previous years, the main body of the report gives an account of the work of the Public Health Departments of the District Councils, information on the personal health and welfare services of the County Council being appended as a supplement. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors and review their work throughout the year, and I am indebted to the Housing Managers for the details of the progress in housing in their respective Districts.

The vital statistics given in the opening pages of each District report are generally favourable compared with previous years and those for England and Wales. In Hatfield there was a modest increase in the number of births, probably related to the recent influx of young families into the newly developed estate in the centre of the town, but elsewhere the number of births declined reflecting the national trend. In spite of the shortage of hospital midwives there was again an increase both in hospital deliveries and in the number of planned early discharges of mothers and babies from hospital. There was an increase in deaths among the elderly due to respiratory causes and heart disease during the first quarter of the year, the legacy of the widespread outbreak of influenza in January. Enquiry into the 102 deaths from heart disease in Welwyn Garden City reveals that 82 of these were attributed to coronary heart disease or angina, a marked increase compared with previous years and equal to the total number of deaths from cancer.

The general decline in the incidence of infectious diseases continues in each District with very few notifications of food borne infection. There were no typhoid or paratyphoid infections notified among travellers returning from abroad, and no local outbreaks of food poisoning. Measles vaccination had not reached the level necessary to ensure protection of young children early in the year, when a considerable number of children entering nursery classes and infant schools contracted the disease. A publicity campaign aimed at ensuring a higher level of protection of children aged 3 - 7 years was mounted following which there was a rapid fall in the number of cases reported. In view of the high risk of foetal abnormalities affecting infants born to mothers who contract German Measles (Rubella) early in pregnancy, a campaign was launched by the County Council in the Autumn for all school girls aged 13 years or in their third year at secondary schools to be offered rubella vaccination with the prior consent of their parents. A total of 964 children received the vaccine, the uptake shewing wide variation between schools. No adverse reactions were reported.

It is not easy to obtain a precise estimate of the incidence of venereal disease in Mid Hertfordshire. The quarterly returns from special treatment centres at St. Albans, Watford and Hitchin shew 22 cases of gonorrhoea and 24 of urethritis from Mid Herts during the year but there may well be others who have sought advice and treatment at centres in the London hospitals. Nationally the increase in gonorrhoea and urethritis in recent years calls for renewed attention to the ill effects of undiagnosed and untreated syphilis and gonorrhoea, infections for which expert diagnosis is readily obtainable in complete confidence at the special centres with the prospect of prompt and lasting cure when the diseases are diagnosed early. In consultation with Dr. G. Ewart Cree arrangements for contact tracing have been set up in Mid Herts and the public may now obtain information about the early treatment of venereal infections and the times of the special sessions at the St. Albans City Hospital by ansaphone, telephone no. St. Albans 64859.

During the Autumn each Council expressed their concern at the threatened curtailment of the local mass radiography facilities resulting from the advice given to Regional Hospital Boards by the Department of Health. Tuberculosis throughout the country is diminishing quite rapidly and the time may well have come when the widespread deployment of mass radiography units can no longer be justified in their present form. The Joint Tuberculosis Committee is concerned that chest X-ray examination of contacts in factories and work in prisons, borstal institutions and mental hospitals which cannot be readily arranged in hospital X-ray departments should continue to be done by the mobile units. It is also to be hoped that general practitioner referrals and the examination of immigrants can still be arranged at local mobile unit centres, where the chest X-rays are so conveniently and promply taken without adding to the load of the busy hospital X-ray departments. Fortunately the services of the local mass radiography unit of the N.W. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board continue to be maintained for the present.

Hazards to health resulting from pollution of the environment are increasingly brought to the attention of the public by nationwide publicity and comment and the concern is justified for in a modern sophisticated society the range of hazards becomes ever wider with atmospheric pollution, chemical additives to food, the use of fertilisers and pesticides, new pharmaceutical products, recent organo-chemical products used in industries, and radioactive sources. The use of these potentially toxic substances are in the main well controlled by regulations and under close review by expert committees and the factory inspectorate. Complaints received from the public arise mainly from smoke nuisance from factories, undue noise and offensive accumulations of refuse and these are promptly investigated and if found justified usually soon corrected. Recently the health departments have received more requests from medical practitioners and the hospital staff for enquiry into the possibility of ill health caused by contaminated water supply or exposure to chemical irritants at work, a sign of increased general awareness of the possible dangers. Growing interest in the chemical content of food is illustrated by the two recent instances where it was found necessary to take action

on a national basis, viz, cyclamates in foods and drinks and brominated vegetable oil. At the end of 1970 there was concern about the content of methyl mercury in canned tuna fish, but investigation shewed that this was not excessive in the fish on the British market. The policy about additives to food in the United Kingdom has always been cautious and it is reassuring to know that new analytical techniques are now employed to demonstrate more accurately the presence and concentration of potentially dangerous substances in foods.

The activities of the social work team continued to grow during the year to provide comprehensive support for the handicapped, elderly and needy. This was of course the last year during which they formed part of a combined health and welfare department, and now as part of the new social services department we look forward to their continued development in close association with the health services. Mention should be made of the appointment of Mr. D. Harper to engage in group and individual case work among young unattached persons in the area, the opening of the day centre for handicapped elderly persons in Welwyn Garden City and the steadily increasing volume of domiciliary work for the elderly and handicapped throughout the Division. Mr. Alan Jones, Divisional Social Worker left at the end of the year and I would like to place on record my appreciation of his enthusiasm and guidance in building up the social work team in Mid Hertfordshire.

There was considerable change in the drug abuse situation in Mid Hertfordshire during the year mainly the result of the restricted availability of heroin and the more serious addictive drugs to young persons. At the beginning of the year there was public concern in Hatfield at the number of young persons seen to be injecting themselves in the town centre, but by the Spring this was less evident and the practice continued to decline throughout the year. The more intensive group and individual support for young persons at risk by the various social work departments and youth leaders is now without doubt limiting the spread of drug taking by providing youths with more satisfying alternative interests, while much of the former ebulliance of the seasoned drug takers has disappeared as they attend the hospital or addiction centre for treatment or are required to serve terms of detention for criminal offences.

The professional coordinating group in Mid Herts continues to meet regularly to pool information from the various medical and social work departments involved and discuss general policy on control measures, while the work of the Mid Herts working group continues to develop particularly in the educational field and individual case and family support. The other main features during the year have been the opening of the rehabilitation centre at Roe Hill House in August where the staff provided by the Richmond Fellowship work in close liaison with Dr. McClure and the hospital psychiatric unit and the social workers and probation officers working in the community, and secondly, the

marked reduction in the prescribing of amphetamine drugs and phenobarbitone particularly for young persons, by agreement among the local medical practitioners. Further details of the campaign against addiction are given in the appendix to the report.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerk and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

G. R. TAYLOR

July, 1971

Medical Officer of Health

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical

Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for 1970.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

L. GARDINER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

D.H. RATLIFF, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D.R. CAULFIELD, Dip. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Assistant:

T.D.E. TREVIS

Clerks:

Mrs. D.L. WALLACE

A. A. W. CALLABY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	4,231
Population (mid year 1970 estimated by the Registrar General)	41,120
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1971	12,797
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1971	£3,666,825
Product of a penny rate, 1970/71	£14,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	325
LIVE BIRTHS	
Number	563
Rate per 1,000 population	13.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.0
STILLBIRTHS	
Number	5
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	13.7
Total live and stillbirths	568
INFANT MORTALITY	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	8
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 Legitimate live births	11.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "	51.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	7.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	7.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	16.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	NIL

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of population in Mid 1970 was 41,120, a decrease of 110 compared with the previous year.

Deaths

As might be expected the main causes of death continue to be those conditions which particularly affect the aged, namely heart disease, cerebro-vascular accidents and cancer. Deaths from cancer (81) continue to rise and 20 of these deaths were due to cancer of the respiratory tract in which excessive cigarette smoking is a predisposing cause. Deaths from bronchitis and respiratory diseases were higher than usual due to the influenza outbreak during the first few weeks of the year. Of the 102 deaths attributed to heart diseases, 82 were the result of coronary heart disease a marked increase (21) compared with the average of recent years. Of the deaths due to road traffic and other accidents, 4 were the result of road accidents in middle aged persons, while 4 of the other accidents related to persons of over 75 years of age.

	Male	Female	Total	Ave. past five years
Heart Diseases	61	41	102	74
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	6	11	10
Cancer, Malignant disease	43	38	81	63
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	18	34	52	36
Pneumonia	9	6	15	13
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	21	4	25	16
Road Traffic and other accidents	6	4	10	9
Leukaemia	2	-	2	2
Suicide	1	1	2	3
Diabetes	1	-	1	2
Nephritis	1	1	2	-
Congenital Malformation	-	5	5	2
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	8	9	17	17
	176	149	325	

Deaths from Cancer: Total 81

Respiratory tract	- 20	Alimentary tract and liver	- 28		
Breast	- 7	Uterus	- 4	Unclassified	- 22

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shews the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1966 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1970.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1966	16.8	0.87	14.6	5.9	1.80	10.6	20.4
1967	15.7	0.87	13.7	6.5	1.77	11.5	9.2
1968	14.5	0.87	12.6	7.1	1.80	12.8	12.0
1969	14.4.	0.87	12.5	6.9	1.74	12.0	7.0
1970	13.7	0.87	11.9	7.9	1.77	14.0	14.0
England and Wales 1970			16.0			11.7	18.0

The standardised birth rate for the town (11.9) continues the steady decline of the past 5 years and the rate is now well below the National and County rate. The infant mortality rate, depending as it does upon small numbers, continues to shew wide annual variations.

Infant Mortality

The ages and causes of death were as follows :-

Age	Sex	Cause of death
1¼ hours	F	Hydrocephalus - Spina Bifida
10 hours	F	Pulmonary Oedema - Pulmonary Atelectasis
2 days	F	Respiratory failure - cerebral damage
3 days	F	Rhesus Incompatability - Prematurity
1 month	M	Acute pneumonia - Pulmonary Haemorrhage
4 months	M	Bronchiolitis
4 months	M	Pneumonia
5 months	M	Bronchiolitis

The rise in the infant mortality rate for the year was thus largely due to the four deaths from pneumonia and bronchiolitis occurring in older infants.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	7	(9)	Diphtheria	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	5	(3)	Poliomyelitis	-	(-)
Measles	225	(43)	Infectious Jaundice	-	(3)
Dysentery	1	(-)	Food Poisoning	1	(-)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1969)

Measles was the only disease with an incidence high enough to justify comment. Measles occurs in epidemic form every two years. The last major epidemic was in 1967. Measles vaccination was started in Mid 1968 with the object of preventing an otherwise inevitable epidemic in 1969 during which year there were as a consequence only 43 cases. There was a shortage of supply of vaccine in 1969 and the vaccination campaign could not be maintained at the same level of intensity as that possible in 1968. In the circumstances it was not surprising that there was a rise in the number of reported cases in 1970, just two years after the vaccination campaign has been at its height.

Measles epidemics normally occur during the Winter and early Spring finally petering out about the middle of the year. In the absence of a winter epidemic, experience in Welwyn Garden City shews that a summer rise in incidence is not uncommon. This is exactly what happened in 1970 when after the notification of 3 cases in March the monthly numbers of notifications for the next 6 successive months were, 20, 27, 41, 56, 64 and 13. Only one case was notified during the last three months.

An investigation of this outbreak from its start revealed that children in the general community were only infected after spread within the neighbourhood infant school, playcentres etc. Such centres of child life were found to contain on average 84% of non-susceptible children and yet the disease spread. The proportion of non-susceptible was raised to 96% by vaccination. It is impossible to say what was the effect of this vaccination programme as the completion of the programme coincided with the end of the summer term - and it is not unusual for an epidemic of school spread infection to come to an end at this time, however there is the satisfaction of knowing that the proportion of susceptible school children had been reduced.

Tuberculosis

Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. Of these four cases, one concerned a patient who was already under treatment on arrival from North-East England. The ages of the local notifications were 45, 56 and 2½. The first two of these cases were relapse cases, the last was a fresh infection the result of close contact with an infective grandmother.

The number of local infections in each of the past five years were:-

1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
8	4	6	9	3

School children during the first year at secondary schools received as usual a routine inoculation of B.C.G. 954 children were inoculated in schools in Welwyn Garden City during the year.

Housing

100 houses in Longcroft Lane and Broadwater Road were modernised during the year as part of the Council's progressive modernisation programme and another scheme of 54 houses in Elm Gardens, Applecroft Road and Youngs Rise was commenced. It is estimated that these two modernisation schemes will cost approximately £116,000.

Work commenced upon the Council's Housing Scheme No. 21 on the Panshanger estate, comprising 297 dwellings, including 36 units of elderly person's accommodation with Warden Care.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following details of the Council's housing progress.

	As at 31.12.69	As at 31.12.70
Number of houses owned by the Council	3,067	3,067
Number of garages owned by the Council	969	969
Number of families housed during the year	199	132
Position of Applicant Register:-		
Priority grades	291	312
Non-priority grades	214	170
Engaged couples	169	277

The allocation from the Commission for the New Towns to the Council of their casual vacancies was reduced to 33⅓%, in other words one in three (previous year 50%). In addition the Council were to receive vacancies in lieu of new lettings from the Commission's Panshanger Estate of houses built for sale. Due to the delay of hand-over of these dwellings, little effect was obtained from this during 1970 but effect has been felt during the current year.

Housing (Continued)

The special needs of the elderly and handicapped are kept constantly under review in cooperation with the Health and Welfare Department to arrange for adaptations to meet specific difficulties as necessary or transfer of the tenant to more suitable alternative accommodation. Increasing attention is given to this aspect of housing management as a result of the implementation of the Disabled and Handicapped Persons Act and the increasing of requests received from both tenants, Social Service Department and voluntary agencies for the elderly and handicapped.

On the Commission's Panshanger IIIA scheme of properties for sale, 79 dwellings were completed and handed over by the contractor. Applicants on the U.D.C. housing waiting list benefit from Panshanger sales to Commission tenants as the resultant rented vacancies are let to U.D.C. nominees. A total of 55 dwellings were also made available to U.D.C. nominees. There were no dwellings built for renting during the year and there has been a considerable response to the Commission's offer to sell rented houses to tenants at favourable prices, subject to certain conditions regarding resale.

Demand for elderly person accommodation still exceeds supply and various schemes are in the pipeline to help meet this need. The first of these schemes likely to be completed is 24 warden controlled flats, due to commence in July 1971, which are sited adjacent to the Commission's scheme of 44 houses for sale, being erected in the Marsden Green area.

Several sites at Panshanger have been made available to Housing Associations whose members will build their own dwellings. Further vehicle hardstandings and garage schemes were introduced on a voluntary basis, during the year, in the more congested areas of the town.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Lee Valley Water Co. provides monthly reports regarding the quality of the water supplied to this district. They may be summarised as follows:-

Month obtained	Total Samples	Examined Bacteriologically	Examined Chemically
1970			
January	31	30	1
February	23	23	-
March	24	22	2
April	12	12	-
May	12	12	-
June	13	12	1
July	15	15	-
August	14	13	1
September	12	12	-
October	15	14	1
November	13	12	1
December	12	12	-
	196	189	7

All the samples were considered to conform to the standards of purity suitable for public supply.

General

Every dwelling in the area has a direct supply piped from the public mains, and the water supply was found to be satisfactory in both quality and quantity throughout the year.

No complaints were received from houses during the year and a typical result of analysis by the Counties Public Health Laboratories concludes "These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is served on a separate system. Foul sewage is gathered by tributory sewers and by means of gravity or through one of the five pumping stations and is discharged via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeads.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram (approximately one mile) runs through the northern part of the district, and a portion of the River Lea (approximately half a mile) runs through the southern part of the district.

Lakes were formed either side of Stanborough Lane during the year, providing an expanse of approximately twenty-nine acres for boating and sailing purposes.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of one cottage, situated on the north-western boundary of the district, all the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There are no sewers in the vicinity of this cottage.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) House refuse is collected weekly in motor vehicles by the Council's staff. The refuse is taken to the tip at Cole Green Lane owned by Inns & Co. Ltd.

(b) Street cleansing is carried out by mechanical sweepers supplemented by manual sweeping as necessary.

(c) Gully Cleansing:-

All gullies for which the Council is responsible are emptied and flushed three times a year by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd. who have a contract with the Council for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins:-

The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act, 1932. Notifications of defective bins are passed to the Health Department by the refuse collectors and the owner of the premises is required to provide the necessary replacement bin.

5. SHOPS

Hygiene in food shops and the welfare of assistants in all shops necessitates frequent visiting of premises covered by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and/or The Shops Act, 1950. Seven hundred and eight such visits were made during the year, and the following is a summary of action taken.

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Want of Cleanliness	10	10
Sanitary Defects	4	4
Infringements of The Shops Act	14	14
Other Defects	26	26

6. THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of premises registered with this Authority at the end of 1970 was two hundred and eighty-four.

Visits of all kinds to these premises totalled four hundred and fifty-one and the types of infringements found and dealt with are shown below:-

Inadequate first aid equipment ...	23
Inadequate washing facilities ...	4
Danger or obstruction	30
Heating, lighting and ventilation ...	27
Lack of maintenance	29
Others	19

Eighteen accidents, where employees were away from work for more than three days, were notified to this Authority. No accident was fatal, but investigations were carried out in nine cases where it appeared that the accident could have been avoided by precautionary measures.

Notice was given in all cases where work was found to be necessary.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number and nature of inspections made during the year by the Public Health Inspectors:-

Factories (with mechanical power) ...	216
Factories (without mechanical power) ...	1
Licensed premises	12
Surveys and visits for Rodent Control ...	248
Shops	708
Insect Pests (other than bed bugs)... ...	328
Schools	46
Visits to Public Health Laboratories ...	28
Dwelling Houses (under Housing Acts) ...	60
Inspections or Visits re	
Drainage	303
Infectious Disease	116
Council Property (other than houses) ...	2
Noise	466
Water Supply	97
Dustbins and accumulations of refuse ...	92
Destruction of bed bugs	19
Miscellaneous visits	313

Number of Notices ... 171
(These Notices were all complied with)

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT AND AIR POLLUTION

Smoke observations made	262
Smoke nuisances or contraventions	16
Air pollution observations	414

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Seven houses were found to be infested during the year.

HOUSING

Inspections of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	156
(b)	Number of visits made for this purpose ...	209
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be fit or in which defects were found ...	95

The necessary work was carried out in each case.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Where commerce or industry work in close proximity to dwellings some noise nuisances are bound to occur, especially when new machinery is installed to work at night. Managements generally have been most co-operative in reducing noise, and formal action became necessary in only two cases.

The proving of a nuisance under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, would be simplified if a reasonable standard could be adopted at a national level, and many nuisances would never occur if manufacturers consulted the Local Authority before installing potentially noisy plant.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

(i) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains samples of raw milk from Tuberculin Tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during 1970.

(ii) Milk Sampling

Seventy-five samples of milk were obtained during the year for testing at the Public Health Laboratories. The samples were obtained from delivery vehicles and shops.

Type of milk samples	No. of samples
Pasteurised Milk	32
Pasteurised & Homogenised Milk	9
Pasteurised Channel Island Milk	21
Sterilised Milk	13

All tests proved satisfactory.

2. ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

Seventy-nine samples of ice cream and lollies were obtained during the year, and the results may be tabulated as follows:-

Type of Ice Cream	Provisional Grade				
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Total
	1	2	3	4	
Wrapped Brickettes	20	4	3	-	27
Wrapped Choc-bars	4	5	1	2	12
Iced Cream Lollies	18	-	-	-	18
Soft or loose Ice Cream	14	5	3	-	22
	70%	18%	9%	3%	100%

3. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS (Excluding Milk)

The amount of food voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption was 4,719 lbs. made up as follows:-

			lbs
(i)	Uncooked Food		
	Meat	...	301
	Fish	...	51
	Vegetables	...	112
(ii)	Frozen Foods (due to refrigerator breakdown)		
	Vegetables	...	1,201
	Fish	...	937
	Meat	...	398
	Ice Cream & Lollies	...	950
	Poultry	...	6
	Miscellaneous	...	470
(iii)	Food in containers		
	Meat	...	163
	Vegetables	...	18
	Fruit	...	14
	Fish	...	83
	Miscellaneous	...	15

4. LABORATORY EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out on behalf of the Council, as occasion requires, at:-

(i) Counties Public Health Laboratories,
Thresh House, Verulam Street,
Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

(ii) Public Analyst,
20 Eastcheap,
London, E.C.3.

(iii) Public Health Laboratory,
Luton and Dunstable Hospital,
Lewsey Road, Luton.

Bacteriological examination only is carried out at :-

(iv) Queen Elizabeth II Hospital,
Welwyn Garden City.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The provisions of this Act, concerning adulteration, are administered by the County Council. Seventy samples of food or drugs in common use were obtained in Welwyn Garden City during the year by Sampling Officers of the County Council. The following list shows the results of the formal and informal samples obtained.

Sample	Analyst's report	Comment
Cervelat	Genuine	
Liver paté with selected herbs	"	
Full fat soft cheese	"	
Swiss cheese spread	"	
Shepherds pie filling	"	
Tea break biscuits	"	
Baked pork paté flavoured port wine	"	
Date, raisin and nut bar	"	
Lemon flavoured drink mix	"	
Spanish saffron	"	
Monosodium glutamate	"	
Food colours	"	
Honey, glycerine & lemon pastilles	"	
Panadol	"	
Glycerine, lemon and honey	"	
Oil of Eucalyptus B.P.	"	
Ammoniated tincture of quinine	"	
Milk C.I.	"	
Milk	"	
Milk C.I.	"	
Milk	"	
Black pudding	Fibrous mass was unravelled length of coarse string.	Customer complaint. Suppliers cautioned.
Ice Cream raspberry ripple	-	Customer complaint.
" " " "	Genuine	Taken as result of above complaint.
Wholemeal bread (2)	"	
Pineapple juice	"	

Sample	Analyst's report	Comment
Toasted wheat-germ and honey	Genuine	
Margarine	"	
Chicken curry with rice	"	
Ham and beef meat paste	"	
Fluffy mashed potato	"	
Fruit cocktail in heavy syrup	Ingredients listed in alphabetical order contrary to Labelling of Food Regs. 1970	Taken up with packers.
Thick vegetable soup	Genuine	
Thick pea soup	"	
Instant apple	"	
Cola drink	"	
Minced beef and onions	"	
Sterilised cream	"	
Yeast extract and vegetable flour	"	
Prepacked shelled walnuts	-	Customer complaint. Contained smoked cigarette end. Retailers convicted, fined £10.
Fruit cocktail	-	Follow-up sample.
Bread	-	Customer complaint. Loaf mouldy and contained earwig. Bakers convicted, fined £15.
Milk	-	Customer complaint. Pint bottle of milk contained cigarette end. Dairy convicted; fined £10.
Milk	Genuine	
Milk C.I.	"	
Milk Homogenised	"	
Milk	"	
Cheese spread with onions	"	
Minced beef loaf	"	

Sample	Analyst's report	Comment
Pork luncheon meat	Genuine	
Milk C.I.	"	
Milk	"	
Milk Homogenised	"	
Milk C.I.	"	
Milk	"	
Real fruit Apple Yogurt Low fat	"	
Liver sausage	"	
Cheese spread with smoky bacon	"	
Potato dumpling mix	"	
Liver paté	"	
Jaffa orange juice	"	
Frankfurters in brine	"	
Christmas pudding	"	
Plum pudding flavoured with Rum & Brandy	"	
Mincemeat with brandy	"	
Cumberland brandy butter	"	
Crystalised rose petals	"	
Crystalised acacia	"	
Whisky	"	Proof spirit 70.6%
Whisky	"	Proof spirit 70.9%

6. COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD

Forty complaints were received about food purchased in the town.

Nature of complaint		No. of complaints
Food containing foreign matter	...	16
Food with abnormal taste or smell	...	1
Food mouldy or decomposing	...	13
Others	...	10

Each case was investigated and, as far as possible, steps were taken which would prevent a repetition of the complaint.

7. VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD

Examination of meat and other foods	...	259
Food sampling	...	28
Re Sale of ice cream	...	59
Mobile Vehicles selling ice cream	...	30
Mobile Vehicles selling other foods	...	11
Laboratories with food samples	...	5

8. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

(Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one shop each such trade is separately recorded)

Trade	No. in Town	No. of visits made
Industrial Canteens	17	8
School Canteens	29	94
Cafés and Restaurants	19	52
Licensed Premises	19	12
Food Manufacturers	6	36
Butchers	20	235
Fishmongers	3	62
Grocers	19	223
Greengrocers	20	108
Confectioners	18	81
Miscellaneous Food Premises	8	15

Informal Notices : 45. These were all complied with.

Satisfactory provisions have been made in all the food premises for hand washing and the washing of equipment to comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

AIR POLLUTION

Daily observations of smoke and sulphur dioxide at the two sites in Welwyn Garden City were continued throughout the year with the following results:-

1969 - 1970	Site No. 1		Site No. 2	
	Council Offices Small Town Centre		Tewin Road Depot Industrial Area	
Winter Averages	48	134	43	162
Peak Levels	202	428	209	431

In general the figures are very similar to last year. Compared with national levels, smoke is low and sulphur dioxide rather high. This is probably due to conversion to smokeless fuels and the increasing use of oil. On the whole the figures are satisfactory.

As these two sites have given almost identical results since 1960 it has been decided, after consultation with the Warren Springs Laboratory of the Ministry of Technology, to only use one site in future, the industrial one at Tewin Road Depot.

It is expected that the installation of the automatic 7-day sampler will be completed this year; a considerable aid to staff problems.

GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	216	2	-
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	1	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	-	-	-
Total	217	2	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects Found (2)	Number of Defects Remedied (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (4)	No.of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted (5)
Sanitary Conveniences S.7				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-

3. FACTORIES ACT 1961

(a) Outworkers

The occupiers of three local factories distributed work to one hundred and thirty-six local outworkers. The local outwork is carried out in satisfactory conditions and no cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition there were:-

2 local outworkers employed by a firm operating in Camden and
3 " " " " " " " " Islington.

(b) Factories - General Information

The Factories Act, 1961, came into force on 1st April 1962 and repealed the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past forty-eight years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory and infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alterations of existing factories are examined by the Public Health Department before they are approved. The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with Section 37 or 43 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted did not comply, amendments were informally negotiated with the proposers and compliance secured.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Administration

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and the General Assistant is employed for the greater part of his time in this work.

(b) Rodent Destruction

As a result of complaints, minor infestations of rats and/or mice were found to be present on sixty-eight premises.

Details of the type and infestation found are as follows:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Rats	44	291
Mice	24	133
	68	424

The types of premises found to be infested are as follows:-

	Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business & Industrial Premises
No. of premises infested by Rats	3	44	20
No. of premises infested by Mice	1	24	25
No. of premises infested by Rats & Mice	-	-	2
	4	68	47

(c) Chargeable Work

All dwelling houses in the district are treated without charge but rodent destruction on commercial and industrial premises is chargeable either by contract or by private works order. In these cases the agreement of the occupier of such premises to the charge has to be obtained before any disinfestation is commenced.

Twenty-one establishments in the district negotiated contracts with the Local Authority in respect of twenty-four premises; the income from these contracts was £201.

Details of visits made under contract and of infestations found are as follows:-

	No. of infestations found	No. of visits
Rats	2	557
Mice	9	366
	11	923

In addition, the income from private works orders was £72.63, details of which are:-

	No. of infestations found	No. of visits
Rats	18	89
Mice	16	63
Rats & Mice	2	20
	36	172

(d) Summary

Rodent infestations from all sources totalled one hundred and nineteen, and visits made totalled one thousand, five hundred and eighty-five.

In addition, fifteen surveys were carried out by the General Assistant. These surveys and treatments are intended to deal with rats entering the Town when the surrounding fields are bare, and again there was a marked reduction in the number of complaints made in the early part of the year because of these treatments.

Warfarin is still the most useful poison for rat destruction and there has been no evidence of warfarin resistant rats in the area. Mice have proved to be a lot more difficult to deal with, and a narcotic drug called Alphachloralose has now been brought into use. It involves even greater care on the part of the general assistant, but minor infestations have been cleared rapidly since its introduction.

5. INSECT PESTS

The following table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises for that purpose.

Pest	No.of premises affected	No.of visits made
Wasps	245	248
Bees	19	23
Fleas	9	12
Beetles	28	41
Others	23	28
	324	352

In addition to the foregoing, insect powder was supplied free to occupiers where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case made personal attention either not possible or unnecessary.

Two hundred and thirty-seven occupiers were supplied with the free issue, mostly to deal with ants.

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical

Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for 1970

****

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :
C.A. BAILEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :
R.H. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector :
R.G. MORGAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector :
M. DAVIES

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative :

L.A. LAWRENCE

Clerks:

Mrs. J. BANKS
A.A.W. CALLABY

HATFIELD SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	21,914
Population (mid year 1970 estimated by the Registrar General)	45,720
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1971	14,321
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1971	£3,072,962
Product of a penny rate, 1970/71	£12,576

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	358
LIVE BIRTHS	
Number	641
Rate per 1,000 population	14.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.0
STILLBIRTHS	
Number	8
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	12.0
Total live and stillbirths	649
INFANT MORTALITY	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	10
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	16.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 Legitimate live births	12.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "	81.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	11.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	9.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	22.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	NIL

Population

There was a further slight rise in the population. The Registrar General's estimate of the population in mid 1970 was 45,720 an increase of 30 over the figure for mid 1969. The excess of live births over deaths was 283 slightly in excess of the figure for 1969 (257).

Births

Live births shewed an increase from 611 in 1969 to 641.

Deaths

Deaths remained more or less stationary shewing an increase of only 4 on the figure for 1969 (354).

	Male	Female	Total	Average past five years
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	28	60	88	77
Heart Diseases	44	38	82	97
Other circulatory diseases	12	9	21	13
Cancer, Malignant disease	38	34	72	67
Pneumonia	3	16	19	17
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	15	6	21	20
Road Traffic and other accidents	9	7	16	12
Congenital malformation	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	3	-	3	2
Diabetes	1	1	2	1
Nephritis	1	1	2	-
Ulcer of the stomach etc.	3	3	6	3
Suicide	1	5	6	3
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	8	12	20	20
	166	192	358	

The main causes of death were, as in previous years, heart disease, cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis and cancer.

Deaths from Cancer: 72

Respiratory tract	-	30	Alimentary tract & liver	-	14
Breast	-	8	Uterus	-	Nil	Unclassified	-	20

Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shews the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1966, with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1970.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1966	16.4	0.91	14.9	8.3	1.23	10.2	12.4
1967	13.8	0.91	12.6	8.5	1.16	9.9	10.0
1968	14.3	0.91	13.0	8.7	1.22	10.6	9.4
1969	13.4	0.91	12.2	7.7	1.14	8.8	15.0
1970	14.0	0.91	12.7	7.8	1.29	10.1	16.0
England and Wales 1970			16.0			11.7	18.0

The birth rate has swung back to the figure for 1968 and has in effect remained relatively stationary since 1967.

Infant Mortality

The ages and causes of the 11 infant deaths reported were as follows :-

Age	Sex	Cause of death
3 hours	F	Prematurity
4 hours	M	Complete absence of urinary tract
1 day	F	Prematurity
2 days	M	Congenital cardiac malformation
3 days	F	Congenital heart disease
6 days	M	Respiratory Distress Syndrome - Prematurity
10 days	M	Heart failure
11 days	M	Respiratory Distress Syndrome - Prematurity
3 months	F	Virus pneumonia
4 months	M	Asphyxia - Inhalation of cows milk
5 months	M	Meningococcal Septicaemia

Eight of the listed deaths were the consequence of congenital deformities or of the hazards of being born, two the consequence of infection and one the consequence of asphyxia in the presence of cows milk allergy. It is interesting to see how closely these figures relate to the average percentage rates applicable to local experience over the past few years when 80% of deaths were found to be due to congenital abnormalities etc, 19% to infections and 1% to accidents mainly the consequence of asphyxia and cows milk allergy.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	15	(10)	Dysentery	1	(2)
Whooping Cough	2	(13)	Food Poisoning	-	(10)
Measles	414	(59)	Infectious Jaundice	7	(7)

Figures in brackets refer to 1969

The only disease occurring in significant numbers was measles. As suggested in the report for 1969 the sudden rise in December of that year could have been explained by the reduction of supplies of vaccine from early in the year. The rise reported in December was the prelude to a full scale epidemic in 1970, though at a lower level than that experienced in 1967 the previous epidemic year and the last year in which measles vaccine was not available. The number of notifications in 1967 was 765 as compared with 414 in 1970. Once the Christmas holidays were over the outbreak got rapidly into its stride with 21 cases notified in January, 97 in February and 168 in March; cases then began to decline and notifications fell as follows, 72 in April and 10 in May after which the incidence remained at a low level for the remainder of the year. In general it can be said that the epidemic lasted for a shorter period than usual.

Tuberculosis

Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis all resulting from the reactivation of old infections were reported locally. The ages were :-

35, 38, 50 and 74

Two patients already registered and under treatment moved into the district during the year. Their ages were 49 and 58.

Children during their first year at Secondary Schools were tuberculin tested and 617 shewing a negative result inoculated with B.C.G.

Housing

I am grateful to Mr. E.W. Pickering, Housing Manager for the following statement on the progress in housing made by the Council during the year :-

"In 1970 the only housing development in progress for the Rural District Council were the 68 dwellings under construction as Birchwood Phase II, although other forward schemes namely a block of 68 flats to surmount the Woolco Store on which a start had been made in the Town Centre Area Redevelopment Scheme, and 218 mixed dwellings on the Millwards Site, Travellers Lane, had been prepared.

On Birchwood II, 51 properties were completed and let during the year, 22 of them being one-bedroomed flats mainly used either for housing pensioners from the waiting list or for tenant transfers from existing larger Council houses. This brought the number of dwellings erected by the Council since 1945 to 2,331 of which 117 have since been demolished to make way for fresh development. The total number of premises owned by the Council at the end of the year was 3,037. Only 17 more new dwellings in the current building programme remained to be finished and let.

A total of 311 lettings were effected over the twelve months including 87 transfers and 38 mutual exchanges of accommodation. The rate of housing from the list did no more than keep pace with the number of fresh applications and at the year end there were still nearly 400 on the general need list and a slight increase to 145 on the elderly persons list.

The general housing situation at the end of 1970, with another nearly 200 families housed from the waiting list into new dwellings, relets, or by nomination to properties made available by the Commission for the New Towns, was not quite so acute as anticipated but with so few new dwellings under construction for 1971 the waiting period must inevitably lengthen. For those already living in Council dwellings and seeking a change either because of size of family or for some other good reason, greater emphasis is being put on the possibility of making direct mutual exchanges of accommodation with other tenants."

Housing (continued)

Progress is being made in the redevelopment of old Hatfield and to the completion of the Town Centre. During the year 7 houses were built for sale on the Hertford Road site near The Ryde. There were no new dwellings built for renting but good progress is being maintained on the Wellfield Road/St. Albans Road schemes which will provide 63 elderly person warden controlled flats to rent.

Hatfield R.D.C. were able to nominate tenants for 33 Commission dwellings under the existing arrangements which exist between the two Authorities. There has been a considerable response to the Commission's offer to sell dwellings to sitting tenants.

Vehicle hardstandings and garage schemes have been introduced on a voluntary basis to meet the needs of tenants living in dwellings adjoining the more congested main roads.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING:

Unfit Houses - Housing Act, 1957

In general the stock of dwellings throughout the district is of a high standard, much above average for rural authorities, but a few individually unfit houses are dealt with from time to time.

Formal action was taken in respect of the following:-

(a)	Houses demolished	5
(b)	Unfit houses closed	3

Explanation of above

(a)	7 &8 Stanborough Cottages, Old Great North Road) 6, 8 & 10 Lemsford Village. adj. Long & Short Arm P.H.)	5
(b)	58, 62 & 64 College Lane, Hatfield (1970) (part of a terrace of six)	3

Informal action in respect of Nos. 1 & 2 Church Cottages, Stortons Corner, Essendon, was reported to Council in 1969, both cottages being considered unfit, but a demolition order could not be operated because of an unusual interlock with adjoining property in different ownership. Fortunately, the block of 4 houses ultimately came on the market and into one ownership. The two cottages were demolished, entirely rebuilt, and modernised, and blend very well with this old part of the Village.

Dwellings demolished to make way for re-development

In addition to formal action taken by the Council, the following were demolished to make way for other development, the majority of which were under the jurisdiction of the Commission for the New Town:

Station House, Great North Road, Old Town	1
56/58 Great North Road, Old Town (rear of Hatfield Arms P.H.) ..	2
Nurses Home, Little Heath	1
2, 4, 6, 8, 10, Great North Road, Old Town	5
145 St. Albans Road East, Hatfield	1
123, 125, 127, Dixons Hill Road, Welham Green	3
	13

Improvement Grants

The Housing Act, 1969, came into operation in late August of that year and, as expected, has had some appeal to the public as far as requests for Improvement Grants are concerned, not only because of increased financial assistance, but also by way of a matching 50/50 repair reimbursement in appropriate cases. The eligibility for a 50% grant toward inserting a damp proof course where none existed previously also brought a brisk response, in the older type of dwelling, noticeably from newly married couples buying their own houses.

In 1968, 12 applications for grant were approved, in 1969 there were 10, and for 1970 the total was 27. The matching 'repairs' mention in the Act, i.e., only eligible where essential amenities were being installed for the first time, was misinterpreted by many people, who wrongly believed that they could obtain a grant for repairs to property, even though they had already, a bath, a wash basin, sink with hot water and internal W.C.

Of eight Standard Grants approved the average reimbursement was £135 and nineteen others (previously referred to as Discretionary) averaged £476 per dwelling. Some of the latter qualified for the maximum £1,000 grant but seven others were well under £400. Of the dwellings concerned 11 were tenanted and 16 owner occupied.

The total number of grants approved by the Council since the scheme first started is 411.

The national pace of improvement is quickening, being 20% up on the previous year, and this should escalate further. Without improvements with a grant there is no doubt that many dwellings would, sooner rather than later, fall into the unfit category, but now that essential matching repair costs can be included where grant is approved for provision of amenities for the first time, there is a dual stimulus of saving property from decay, and at the same time converting into a reasonably modern home.

It is estimated that there are still 1½ million houses to clear under slum clearance schemes, and a further 4 million dwellings in need of improvement and repair, so that even if 20% of the latter receive the necessary attention, slum clearance action will be necessary through progressive deterioration for an additional ¾ million properties by the turn of the century.

WATER:

Public Supply

As a rural authority, Hatfield is very well served by public water undertakings. With the exception possibly of two properties on the southern perimeter of the district, the mains supply is catered for by the Lee Valley Water Company, whose headquarters and laboratories are established in Hatfield. Of approximately 13,500 dwellings 99.6% are connected to the network of company mains.

The Brookmans Park tower reservoir, receiving water through linkage with the Gt. Ouse catchment area (Grafham) went into operation in 1969 and the earlier references to the "foreign" taste appear to have subsided.

All sources of mains supply were of excellent quality for domestic purposes.

The natural fluoride content at the pumping stations in the four parishes of Hatfield, Essendon, North Mymms and Northaw is fairly consistent at 0.2 milligrams per litre. The Ministry regard a level of 1 m.p.l. as the optimum to reduce dental decay.

Standpipes

There are now no dwellings in the district dependant on water standpipes, but two cottages in a remote part on the extreme fringe of the rural district boundary use a hand pump. The water is sampled regularly.

Private Supplies

Throughout the rural area there are 16 well/boreholes still in use for domestic purposes. but 3 of these small communities are also connected to the mains, which, by choice, are used only for emergency purposes!

The number of dwellings entirely dependant on well supply is 44. A local authority is required to sample private supplies used for domestic purposes, periodically, and following is a summary of samples taken by the public health inspectors during 1970.

	No. of Wells etc.	No. of Dwellings Served	No. of Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Astwick Manor	1	2	3	3	0
Coopers Green	2	6/1	9	7	2
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	16	12	4
Roe Hyde	3	5/1/1	20	13	7
Stanborough	2	1/1	3	3	0
Symondshyde	1	1	6	2	4
Lower Woodside	1	2	18	6	12
Mill Green (Farm)	1	1	3	2	1
Lemsford (Park)	1	6	3	3	0

An unsatisfactory sample is, of course, followed up immediately and pursued until a satisfactory report is obtained. Samples are often taken at different points along the system, i.e., well, service pipes, storage tanks, taps, to determine at what point contamination occurs. The most likely reasons are neglected storage tanks, and well/boreholes, i.e., birds, extensive rainfall and inadequate covers respectively.

MEAT:

Inspection of Meat at Slaughterhouse

The only licensed slaughterhouse in the rural district is situated at a Pig Farm, known as White Lodge Farm, Bell Bar. The total kill during the year was 603 pigs, every carcase and associated offal was examined by the public health inspectors.

Following is a brief summary of work entailed:-

Number of Pigs Killed and Inspected	603

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcases condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	6
% of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	0.99

All Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Whole carcases condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	150

The most common reason for condemnation was congestion/pneumonia in lungs, spotted livers, pericarditis and adhesions in hearts. Generally, therefore, the meat and offal was relatively free from true disease. Tuberculosis was under 1%, and in the few minor incidences found, evidence was confined to the mesentery.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING:

The following samples of Ice Cream were taken to the laboratory for the methylene blue test, results as summarised:-

Place of Sampling	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Total
	Provisional Grade (1)	(2)	Provisional Grade (3)	(4)	
Mobile Vans	3	3	1	6	13
Premises	20	6	3	5	34
	23	9	4	11	47

Grades 1 and 2 are accepted as satisfactory and 3 and 4 as failures.

It is a provisional sensitivity test, and not a legal standard. The majority of failures were due to the sale of soft ice cream from vehicles, together with sale of bulk ice cream from shops. Inadequate sterilisation of equipment is the main cause. Repeat samples are always taken until a grade 1 or 2 is obtained, either from container, server, etc.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960:

The following premises were subject to these regulations:-

Factory Canteens	20	Bakehouses	1	Fruiterers & Greengrocers	22
School Canteens	36	Bakers Shops	8	Grocers	36
Cafes & Restaurants	35	Butchers	22	Confectioners	27
Transport Cafes	6	Fishmongers	7	Licensed Premises	38
Private Clubs	15				

TOTAL 273

FOOD CONDEMNED AT SHOPS, STORES AND DEPOTS, INCLUDING FROZEN FOOD AND POULTRY:

Carcase Meat	415 lbs.	Other Canned Food	1,382 lbs.
Meat Products	40 lbs.	Fish	529 lbs.
Meat Canned	34 lbs.	Miscellaneous Foods	4,003 lbs.
		Nuts	8,500 lbs.

Miscellaneous foods were primarily frozen foods which had to be condemned following the breakdown of deep-freeze cabinets. The large consignment of nuts were condemned at a food warehouse, having been received in a mouldy condition.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SECTION 2:

Legal proceedings were taken on three occasions during the year in respect of food which was not of the quality demanded. Brief details are as follows:-

Case No.1	Sale of quantities of fish to two County Establishments	- Fine £100
Case No.2	Sale of bottle of milk containing fragments of glass	- Fine £40
Case No.3	Sale of bottle of milk containing mould and vegetable tissue	- Fine £50

THE IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968:

These regulations, which came into force in August, 1968 contain measures for the protection of public health in relation to imported food.

In general the enforcement of the regulations and inspection of the food is the responsibility of the port health authority. However, with the increase in sealed container traffic the authorised officer of the port may notify the inland authority of its destination and this authority must inspect the food on arrival at its destination. Foodstuffs consigned in the sealed containers must be fit, sound and wholesome.

To determine compliance with the requirements of the regulations a sufficient quantity of the food should be examined. The amount examined cannot be expressed as a percentage of the total consignment as the quantity will depend upon the nature of the food and the evidence of the examination the food has already received in the exporting country.

During January 1970, a large cheese packing establishment, packing up to 175 tons a week, started to receive 17 ton weekly consignments of Irish cheese in sealed containers. The port health authority notify this department immediately the cheese is received.

Approximately 670 tons in sealed containers was delivered during the year and due to the nature and quality of the food about 3% was examined on each visit. Only one ½ cwt. box was found to be mouldy. A total of 47 visits were made during the year. The structural condition of the premises is first class and personal hygiene is second to none.

POULTRY PROCESSING:

There are now only three small establishments within this district - where the number killed and/or dressed was 1,550 Turkeys and 335 Capons. The great majority of these were prepared for Christmas.

Fourteen visits were made to the various premises during the year, and no birds or organs were reported as unfit.

NUISANCES ABATED : CONTRAVENTIONS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED:

Houses		Total
Roofs Renewed or Repaired	34	
Chimney Stacks Rebuilt or Repaired	9	
Rainwater Gutters/Pipes Renewed/Repaired	16	
Walls Repointed or Rendered	15	
Wall or Ceiling Plaster Renewed/Repaired	16	
Floors Renewed/Repaired	10	
Windows or Doors Renewed/Repaired	5	
Fireplaces Renewed/Repaired	1	
Stairs Renewed/Repaired : Rails Fixed	10	
Sub-floor Ventilation Provided	6	
Dampness Abated	24	
Additional Lighting Provided	8	
Additional Ventilation Provided	7	
Foodstores Provided or Repaired	2	163
Sanitary Fittings, etc.		
Sinks Provided or Replaced	4	
Baths & Basins Provided/Replaced	15	
Hot Water Supplies Provided	21	
New W.C. Compartments	10	
Drains Constructed/Repaired	12	
Drains Cleared	47	
Drains Tested	15	
Cesspools Constructed/Repaired	7	
Offensive Accumulations Removed	1	132

INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the public health inspectors during the year:-

Public Health Acts		Total
Complaints	143	
Housing Visits	81	
Infectious Disease	43	
Visits to Path. Lab.	37	
Water Supplies	184	
Drainage/Sewerage	301	
Cesspools/Septic Tanks	96	
Rubbish Accumulations, etc.	43	
Insect Infestation	161	
Rodent Control	88	
Pigeon Control	17	
Agricultural Premises	14	
Swimming Pools	28	
Noise Abatement	25	
Long Stay Immigrants	16	
Sundry Nuisances	204	
Pet Animals	58	1,539

Housing Acts		Total
Housing Inspections	456	
Houses Let in Lodgings	0	
Houses in Multiple Occupation	2	
Rent Act	26	
Improvement Grants	149	
Licensed Caravan Sites	50	
Gypsy Caravans	60	
Qualification Certificates	46	789
Food & Drugs Act		
Slaughterhouses	58	
Food Inspection	92	
Food Complaints	55	
Food Shops	410	
Imported Food Regulations	47	
Poultry Processing Establishments	14	
Food Warehouses	3	
Cafes & Restaurants	146	
Licensed Premises	120	
Transport Cafes	28	
Factory & School Canteens	118	
Market Food Stalls	258	
Food Hygiene Lectures	2	
Mobile Shops	77	1,428
Clean Air Acts		
Volumetric Recording	355	
Smoke Observations	104	
Boiler Plant Inspections	21	480
Factories Act		
Power Factories	127	
Non-Power Factories	1	128
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963		
General Inspections	320	
Other Inspections	366	686

FACTORIES ACT, 1961:

Following is a summary of duties carried out under the above Act:-

Number of Factories on Register	119
Number of Inspections Made	128
Number of Notices Served as a Result of Notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories	1
Number of Defects Remedied	1

Defects Found

Want of Cleanliness	1
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	NIL
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	NIL
Other Offences Against the Act	NIL

Factories

*With Mechanical Power where Section 7 enforced	118
Without Mechanical Power	1

*Note - Section 7 refers to provision and maintenance of Sanitary Conveniences and although primarily the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories, such matters must be referred to the Local Authority.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

Following are details of information submitted to the Ministry of Labour by way of Annual Report for 1970. These figures do not include railway premises, schools, crown premises, municipal offices and offices in factories, which are the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Registrations and General Inspections

	Number of Premises Registered During the Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at End of Year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving a General Inspection During the Year
Offices	5	98	80
Retail Shops	4	186	186
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	9	9
Catering Establishments open to Public, Canteens	1	44	44
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTALS	11	338	320

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises - 686

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	733
Retail Shops	942
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	120
Catering Establishments open to Public	344
Canteens	17
Fuel Storage Depots	2
TOTAL	2,158
TOTAL MALES	1,011
TOTAL FEMALES	1,147

Number of Exemption Applications Received	NIL
Number of Exemption Applications Granted	NIL
Number of Extension of Exemption Applications Received	NIL
Number of Extension of Exemption Applications Granted	NIL
Number of Exemption Certificates Cancelled	NIL
Number of Accidents Notified and Investigated	7
Number of Informal Notices Served	10
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	14

General Comments

The Department of Employment asked local authorities to issue a narrative report on various aspects of the Act. The following report was sent:

Within this area major problems have now been sorted out and there have not been any special cases during the year. Most premises receive at least one inspection a year, others such as food premises are visited on several occasions in connection with other legislation.

As far as the operation of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises (Hoists & Lifts) Regulations 1968 are concerned, there have been no major problems. Plans of new offices and shops are inspected by the department and the architects and owners are reminded of their statutory obligations under the Act. Three reports on defective lifts have been sent in by competent companies but it is thought that many occupiers are unaware of their obligation to have lifts examined every six or twelve months and it is intended to circularise occupiers on this matter during 1971.

During 1970 all registered premises were notified of their obligation to report accidents under Section 48 of the Act, but the number reported did not exceed that of 1969.

RODENT CONTROL:

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council is responsible for the administration of the above Act. As with all pests, the ultimate hope of completely eliminating any of the species, whether it be rodents, pigeons, rabbits or insects is apparently unattainable. All efforts are directed to known places of infestation, largely as the result of requests by house dwellers, factory and business management and farmers, etc. By this method, numbers are controlled, otherwise serious proliferation and damage would occur.

No charge is made for treatments at domestic premises, but annual agreements, involving monthly visits, are carried out at over 40 farms and business premises, on a standard time/cost basis.

Following is a summary of treatments carried out:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	Business etc.	Total
Properties found to be RAT infested	11	246	38	39	334
Properties found to be MOUSE infested	-	26	38	6	70

The above related to premises only. All dwellings were visited twice of course, but farms and business, factories, etc., under contract, were visited at least twice monthly.

INSECT PESTS:

The following additional pests were also dealt with following requests by ratepayers:-

Wasps Nests	160	Bed Bugs	2
Woodworm	18	Fleas	10
Ants	45	Silver Fish	9
Wild Bees	4	Cluster Flies	9
Carpet Beetles	6	Martin Bugs	1

Pigeons - Following a request for assistance in dealing with an increase in a pigeon nuisance, the cage trap now used by the department was installed and 20 of the birds were caught at premises in the South Hatfield area.

NOISE:

The volume of noise increases year by year through road traffic, aircraft, road making and development of housing estates, but there were no unusual incidents in the district during the year, apart from the works involved on the roadways, pedestrian ways, underpasses, etc., in the Town Centre and the Old Town. There was for a time a surfeit of compressors and pneumatic drills in use. Contractors were approached on a number of occasions, when found not to be using suppressors on this equipment, and in fact some operations were stopped until this equipment was fitted. The operators claim that the drilling is not so efficient with suppressors fitted.

A somewhat unusual complaint of "aircraft" noise was received from a resident in the Birchwood area. Investigation shewed it to be powered model aircraft being flown from a school playing field by school children - $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Hawker Siddeley run-way! but nevertheless a different noise pitch.

LITTER:

The year 1970 was heralded as Conservation Year, and attention was focussed on the prevention of pollution and despoiling of town and country. The town of Hatfield is by any standard, new and well maintained, but the one feature which was not becoming of a new town was the excessive litter so frequently seen in certain shopping areas, other than the town centre.

There is of course a higher proportion of young children and teenagers in new towns and this is evident also from the considerable amount of sweet wrappings thrown on to forecourts of confectionery shops, and in the later age groups by discarded cigarette packets, empty beer cans, bottles and broken glass. Adjacent grassed areas and hedgerows were also afflicted by this thoughtless and stupid habit, nevertheless, this litter should be swept up or collected more frequently than it is, but unfortunately the responsibility is shared one way or another by the County Council, the Commission for the New Towns and the Rural District Council and there appear to be fringes of a no-mans-land neglected entirely.

Discussions have taken place between the three authorities, and all were agreed in that the most satisfactory solution would be for one of these to accept responsibility for the whole business of cleansing, but at the end of the year the only outstanding consideration - that of apportionment of the cost - had still not been decided, and thus the eyesore remains for the present.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 50
ASSISTED BURIALS:

It is the duty of every local authority to cause to be buried the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements have been made, i.e. vagrants, destitution, etc., and the authority may recover from the estate or from any person who was liable to maintain the deceased immediately before his death, expenses so incurred.

The public health department has, since the inception of the Act, dealt with requests for assistance, and one such burial was arranged during the year.

A part reimbursement to the Council of cost involved is normally payable by the Ministry of Social Security.

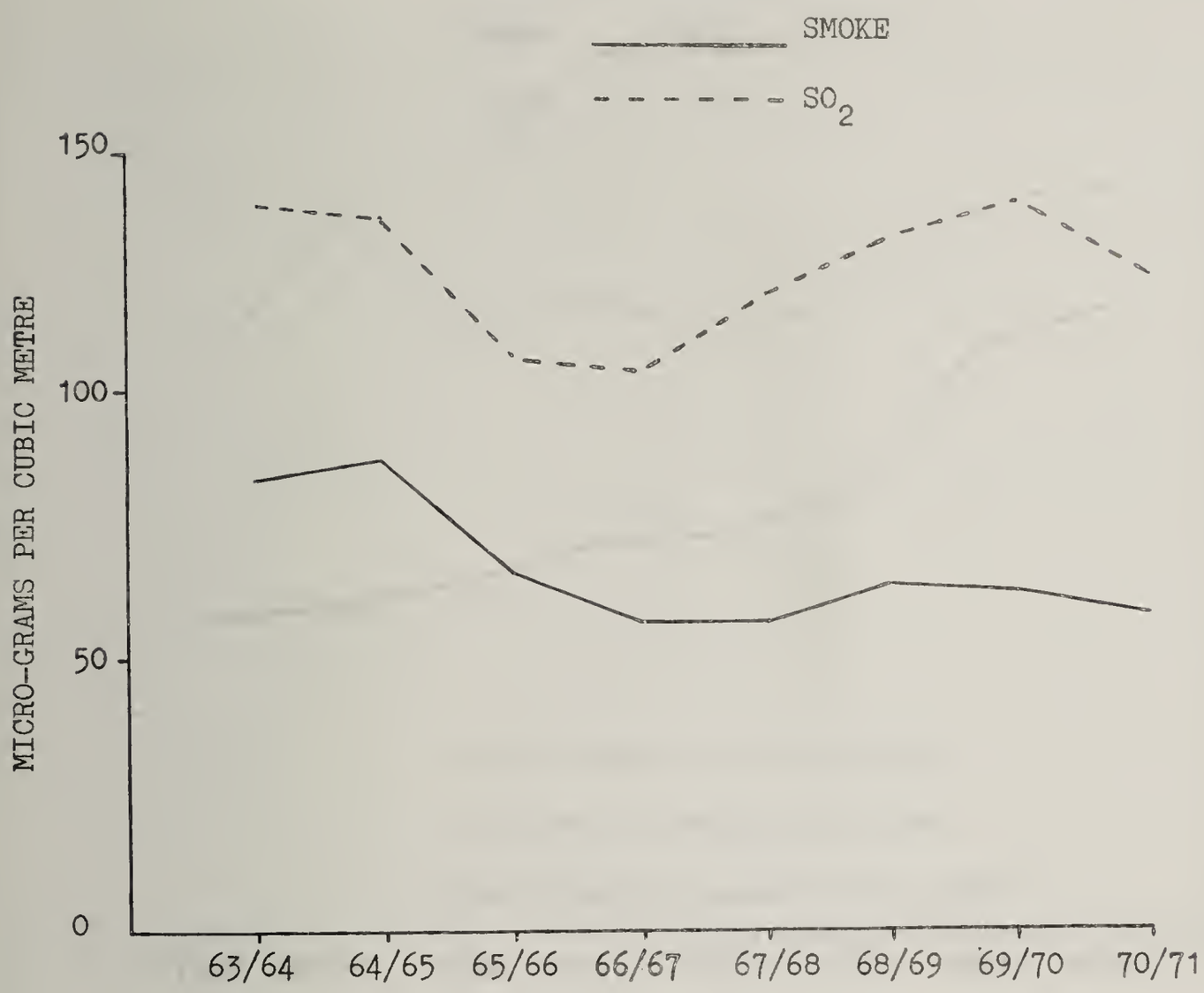
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION:

Weather is a very important factor in determining ground level concentration, with the result that the latter can vary considerably from one year to the next without any change in emission of pollution. For this reason great care must be taken in drawing conclusions yearly and it is only by means of the graphs given, showing several years trends, that any conclusion can be formed.

During the winter 1970/71 (i.e., October, 1970 to March, 1971) there was a noticeable fall in the ground level concentration of sulphur dioxide. This was no doubt due to the comparatively 'mild' winter. Ground level concentrations of smoke also fell, partly due to the weather and partly to an increase in the installation of central heating systems burning smokeless fuels. The increase in the installation of central heating systems, particularly gas, oil and electricity, where the sulphur content is very small or in the case of electricity nil, should over the next few winters shew a decrease in ground level concentrations of sulphur. Before the end of next winter the Commission for the New Towns hope to have installed well over 200 central heating systems, approximately 75% of these being gas fired. In addition this Council are considering installing central heating systems in older properties.

BRIARS LANE INFANTS SCHOOL - SITE NO.1

WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE
1963 - 1971



MONTHLY WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1970/71							
1970 /71	SMOKE			SO_2			SMOKE /SO_2 RATIO
	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
OCT	44	164	11	84	206	13	0.52
NOV	42	111	11	111	228	55	0.38
DEC	79	237	4	154	419	72	0.51
JAN	69	181	7	163	605	68	0.42
FEB	82	194	30	147	280	59	0.56
MAR	38	83	11	104	153	32	0.36

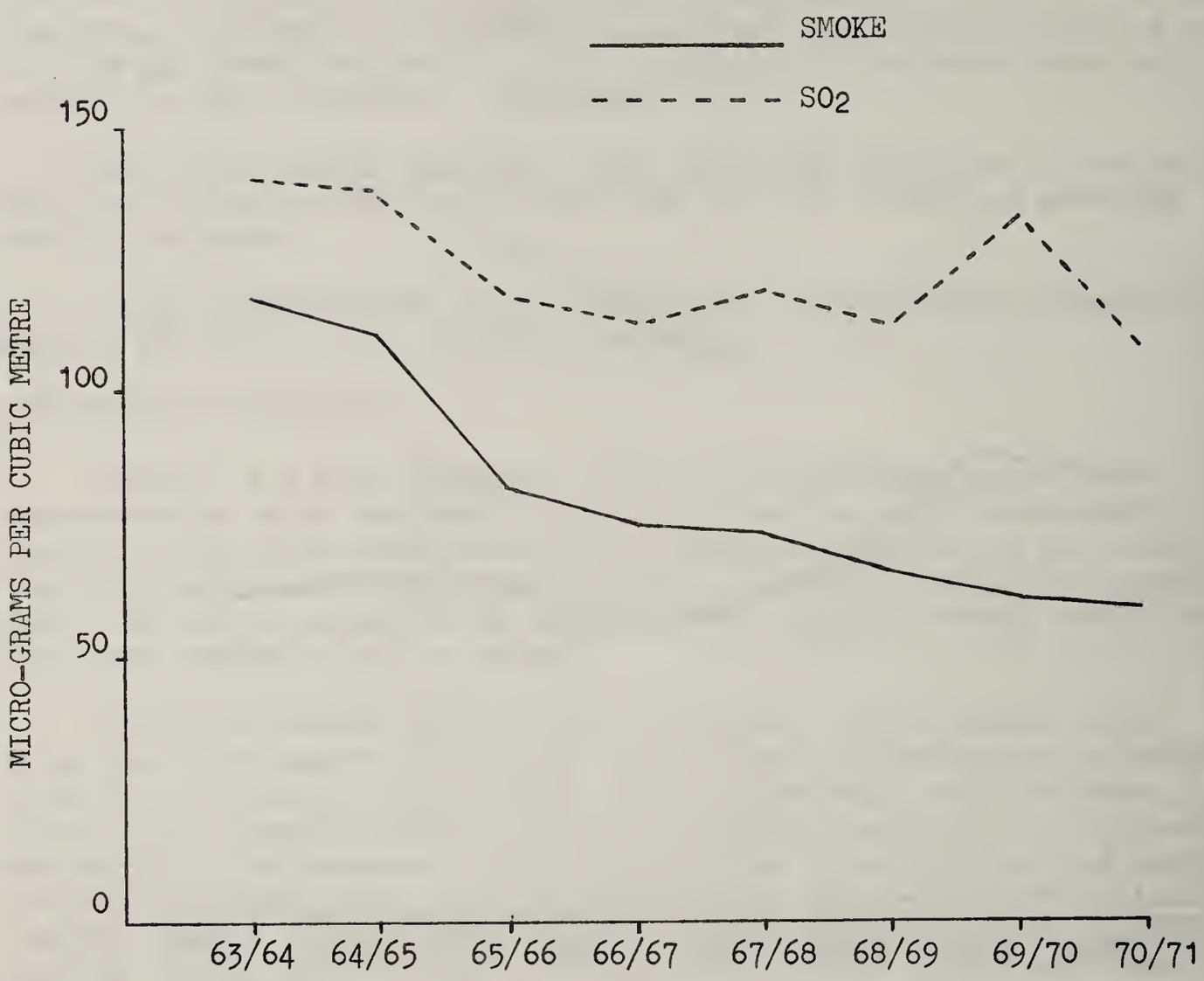
FIGURES IN MICRO-GRAMS PER CUBIC METRE

Winter Average SMOKE = 59 microgrammes/cu.metre
Winter Average SO_2 = 127 microgrammes/cu.metre

COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. ALBANS ROAD - SITE NO.3

WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE

1963 - 1971



MONTHLY WINTER AVERAGES OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1970/71							
1970 /71	SMOKE			SO_2			SMOKE /SO_2 RATIO
	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	Month Average	Highest Daily	Lowest Daily	
OCT	47	167	19	78	219	27	0.60
NOV	41	106	11	82	164	41	0.50
DEC	75	238	4	123	239	57	0.61
JAN	79	194	27	120	455	51	0.66
FEB	76	184	25	136	264	38	0.56
MAR	51	94	22	90	169	40	0.56

FIGURES IN MICRO-GRAMS PER CUBIC METRE

Winter Average SMOKE = 61 microgrammes/cu.metre
Winter Average SO_2 = 105 microgrammes/cu.metre

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical

Officer of Health and of the

Public Health Inspector for 1970

****

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

E.P. RIGBY, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

D.N. SIBLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks

A.A.W. CALLABY

J. EVANS

WELWYN SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	5,232
Population (mid year 1970 estimated by the Registrar General)	8,100
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1971	2,739
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1971	£426,305
Net product of a penny rate, 1970/71	£1,765

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	84
LIVE BIRTHS	
Number	112
Rate per 1,000 population	13.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.0
STILLBIRTHS	
Number	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	18.0
Total live and stillbirths	114
INFANT MORTALITY	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	36.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 Legitimate live births	28.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate live births	250.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	36.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	36.0
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	53.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	Nil

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population in Mid 1970 was 8,100, an increase of 40 on the comparable figure for 1969. The excess of live births over deaths was 28.

Births

Live births shewed a fall of 9 from the figure of 121 in 1969.

Deaths

Eighty four persons died, an increase of 25 on the figure for 1969.

The following table gives the causes of death :-

	Male	Female	Total	Average past five years
Heart Disease	16	6	22	20
Cancer, Malignant disease	7	8	15	12
Other circulatory diseases	-	1	1	3
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	9	6	15	13
Pneumonia	2	2	4	3
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	3	3	6	-
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	2	4	6	-
Road Traffic and other accidents	1	2	3	2
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1	-
Ulcer of the stomach	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	7	4	11	6
	47	37	84	

Deaths from Cancer: - 15

Respiratory	-	5	Alimentary tract and liver			-	4
Breast	-	3	Uterus	-	Nil	Unclassified -	3

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shews the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1966 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1970

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1966	14.0	0.93	13.0	8.3	1.12	9.3	-
1967	14.5	0.93	13.5	8.9	1.16	10.3	8.9
1968	15.0	0.93	14.0	9.8	1.16	11.4	8.5
1969	15.0	0.93	14.0	7.3	1.16	8.5	-
1970	13.8	0.93	12.8	10.4	1.09	11.3	36.0
England and Wales 1970			16.0			11.3	18.0

Infant Mortality

There were four infant deaths during the year. All occurred within 3 days of birth and were the consequence of immaturity or congenital abnormality.

The ages and causes of death were as follows :-

Age	Sex	Cause of death
1 hour	M	Immaturity
6 hours	F	Multiple congenital abnormalities
1 day	M	Congenital heart
3 days	M	Hircshsprung Disease

The infant mortality rate for the district must be expected to fluctuate widely depending upon such relatively small number of deaths notified annually.

Infectious Diseases

Twenty one cases of infectious disease were notified during the year as follows :-

5	Dysentery	2	Scarlet Fever
9	Measles	5	Food Poisoning

It will be noticed that 10 out of these 21 cases were cases of intestinal infection, 5 cases of dysentery and 5 cases of food poisoning. All but one of these were the result of imported infection. The source of infection of the local case was not proven, but may have been due to contamination of a meat product prepared by a local purveyor. Following full investigation by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector the proprietor was advised of the steps necessary to ensure safer preparation of the product and readily agreed to introduce the modification recommended.

Tuberculosis

There were no cases of tuberculosis notified during the year. The total number of persons on the tuberculosis register 35 continues to decline year by year in line with the National trend.

The Chest Clinics at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of patients in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while patients from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and I am again grateful to Miss C.F. McMullen for advice on the domiciliary care of patients needing the support of the social services.

There was a satisfactory acceptance for B.C.G. vaccination of pupils living in the District attending secondary schools.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:

The water supply throughout the Rural District of Welwyn is provided by the Lee Valley Water Company and potable standards have again been maintained throughout the year the subject of this report.

Quality control is as usual, high, and of the 265 bacteriological and 10 chemical samples taken during the year, all conformed to the standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE:

The free service of cesspool emptying is continued in those parts of the district where main sewerage is not readily and suitably available. This is carried out by contract, the sum of the individual costings being defrayed by the Council. Householders electing to retain cesspool drainage, although main sewerage is readily available, are charged with the cost of the specific emptying service.

The sewerage system is based on gravitation from Woolmer Green, through Oaklands, and from Codicote parish (Hitchin R.D.) to Welwyn village. Pumping is required from the low points at Burnham Wood and Fulling Mill and from the main pumping station at Mill Lane.

Constant problems are caused by rag deposits fouling the pump and switchgear mechanisms, particularly at times of flood water and abnormally heavy flow.

Building sites are kept under constant scrutiny as builders' debris is constantly being found to be the cause of blocked sewers.

A system of routine inspection has been continued on sewer sections which are known to be troublesome, due to regular blockage by slow moving obstructions and slack gradients.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The weekly collection of trade and domestic refuse throughout the Rural District has operated reasonable satisfactorily throughout the year, using one large lorry, manned by a crew of five. This crew are instructed to empty the normal refuse from proper containers only, and additional items above the normal are collected by a small general use lorry, giving a 'special' service, but in a supporting capacity to the main scheme.

A bonus scheme has been in operation for the main lorry crew for several years, in order to maintain the weekly visit to all premises. Whilst the scheme is generally satisfactory, on a week- to-week basis giving 200 working man hours per lorry crew, public holidays, mechanical breakdowns and/or inclement weather, make difficulties, as the overtime working required to make up the hours lost cannot easily

be achieved particularly in midwinter.

The refuse tip on Mardley Heath is very conveniently situated for short hauls from most parts of the Rural District, and is kept in order by the use of a small earth moving tractor. Tipping is planned to allow the laden vehicles to tip near to the main consolidated track during wet periods, but to range farther across the tip in dry weather. Routine covering is operated on a daily basis, and insecticidal spraying as required.

Individual tipping, on request, from premises within the Rural District is encouraged at the tip, during operating hours.

RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE FOR PERIOD 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1970:

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1)	No. of properties including nearby properties) inspected following notification.	147	-
(a)	Number infested i) rats	63	-
	ii) mice	24	-
2)	No. inspected not due to notification	6	-
(a)	Number infested i) rats	3	-
	ii) mice	-	-

Rodent control is carried out entirely by private contract and is found to be quite satisfactory. Instructions are obtained regularly by the private operator from the Council Offices, and liaison maintained as necessary.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

Following the widening of the scope of the associated repairs aspect of improvement grants, together with the raising of the grant ceilings, under the provisions of Part 1 of the 1969 Housing Act, an Improvement Grants sub-committee was set up to consider applications and to apportion the necessary finance to meet the requirements of the grants.

It has been found in practice, however, that a large amount of public relations work did not result in a corresponding large rise in applications, since the majority of the privately owned dwellings in

this district are already up to full 5 and 12 points standards.

The emphasis has again been on the owner/occupier rather than on the tenanted private property, and where several grant enquiries have been received from prospective purchasers of a property, the estate agents concerned has been advised as to the possibility of grant aid to avoid repetitive meetings at the same properties.

8 Improvement Grants (Discretionary) were approved, to a total grant value of £3,287. All were made to owner/occupiers.

9 Standard Grants were approved, to a total grant value (before final account) of £1,840. A varying number of items were installed, bringing all the 9 properties up to full standard amenity.

5 were owner occupied and 4 were tenanted.

32 of the pre-war Council owned properties were modernised with the help of Grant-aid in 1970.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

On the analysis of persons employed in registered premises, I report the following figures:-

Offices:	407	persons	employed
Retail Shops:	74	"	"
Catering establishments:	49	"	"
Canteens:	30	"	"
Total:	560		

Divided into 322 males and 238 females.

HOUSING:

During the year 1970, 51 private and NIL council dwellings were completed.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:

Housing defects (not Council Houses)	48
Food Premises	48
Trade effluent	12
Moveable dwellings	30
Statutory nuisances	26
Slaughterhouses	NIL
Bakeries	8
Factories	18
Improvement Grants	144
Building Regulations	1485
Petroleum Acts	No. of licences x 2

MEAT AND OTHER INSPECTION:

The following food was surrendered at retail shops in the district during the year.

38lbs. frozen rabbit carcases, due to taint.
Contents of Ice cream cabinet, due to spoiling - equipment fault.

Appendix to District Reports:

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN GARDEN CITY U.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	130	216	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	132	217	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel	127
Brush making	9
	136

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - HATFIELD R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	118	127	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	119	128	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	1	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel	40
Making curtains and furniture hangings	7
Making toys	42
	89

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	32	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. out-workers' premises)	10	14	-	-
Total	36	46	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel 30

WELWYN DIVISION - HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, 1970

This section provides information and comment on those aspects of the County Health and Social Services which have received special attention during the year. Mention is also made of some of the associated voluntary social services provided in the area. More detailed information on the whole range of the County Health and Social Services is to be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer for 1970.

With few changes in the staff and the gradual building up of the Social Work Team the development and extension of the Community Health and Social Services in the Division was well maintained throughout the year. Discussions on the staffing structure of the new Social Service Department provided both a stimulus and also some uncertainties among the social work staff but they continued to work together well in anticipation of their increased responsibilities in the new department. The team owes much to Mr. Alan Jones, Divisional Social Work Officer who left at the end of the year to become Director of Social Services for the City of Chester.

This Division has been fortunate in having a group of well qualified and experienced departmental medical officers with few changes of late, each of whom has been encouraged to pursue specialised interests in infant care or school health work in addition to their routine medical work. The increased opportunity for attendance at short specialised training courses both within the County and at university centres is much appreciated. The only real staffing problem has been in obtaining a consultant in child psychiatry to take sessions at Welwyn Garden City, relinquished by Dr. O. Roper. The nursing section continues to be well up to establishment, the recruitment of part-time clinic and school nurses enabling the Health Visitors to devote more time to their educational work in the domiciliary field. The shortage of Home Helps continues particularly in the Potters Bar and Welwyn areas in spite of repeated publicity drives and in-service training courses, and is a cause of some concern in view of the steadily increasing demands on the service from the elderly and maternity cases.

Development Screening

The increased attention given to the developmental testing of young children by Departmental Medical Officers, has resulted in more referrals to specialised clinics, e.g. Audiology and Speech Therapy, the Paediatricians and Child Care Officers and there is no doubt of the benefits to these selected children from earlier detection and the closer follow up of abnormalities. While Dr. Powe and Dr. Jennings are particularly interested in the infant and very young child seen at the Infant Welfare Centre, Dr. Rigby is showing special interest in the young school child with specific learning disability. The child with a specific learning disability and a low average to E.S.N. level of intelligence will probably be placed in an E.S.N. school, where as a member of a small class and with

fairly individual attention, he will obtain the opportunity he would not otherwise have had. The child of average to high intelligence, however, can expect at the best, one or two remedial reading or writing sessions per week so it is not surprising that some children of high potential, but with a limiting disability, make poor progress and later tend to show disturbed relationships. A closer link is developing with the Social Work Team to ensure that handicapped children of all categories are provided with the special chairs, eating utensils and training equipment they need in the home, and that parents are fully advised on their use.

Immunisation Campaign

The general decline in the incidence of infectious disease among children in recent years, testifies to the effectiveness of the immunisation campaign against poliomyelitis, smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and tuberculosis. There has been a good response from parents to the introduction during the year of Rubella vaccination of 13 year old girls to remove the risk of acquiring infection occurring later during the early weeks of pregnancy and causing foetal abnormalities. The resurgence of measles throughout the winter of 1969/70 however, serves as a reminder of the need to attain a higher level of primary protection against this disease among susceptible children when entering nursery or primary school at 3 - 6 years of age, and the short outbreak of Asian type influenza during the first two weeks of the year also reminds us that we have not yet succeeded in finding effective means of eliminating recurring epidemics of this disease among the general population.

District Nursing Work

During 1970 work undertaken in the district nursing service showed an overall increase as shown by the following details :

District Nursing	1970	1969	Increase
No. of medical cases	1735	1542	12.5%
No. of visits	40604	34224	18.6%
No. of surgical cases	638	373	70.5%
No. of visits	10338	8891	16.0%
Total No. of visits	52050	43693	19.0%
No. of treatments in Doctor's Surgeries	4739	3032	56.0%
Included in the above:			
Dressings	1382	634	118.0%
Injections	2233	1499	48.0%
Treatment of ears	827	717	15.0%
Special sessions attended	95	-	

The increase in the number of surgical cases marks the first full year since arrangements were made with Mr. Cassie, Surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, for the early post operative discharge of patients from the hospital to the care of their general practitioners. With the agreement of the County Medical Officer, arrangements were made for pre-sterilised dressing packs to be available to nursing staff for use in any case, while waiting for a supply to be obtained on prescription. The demand for these, although constant, is quite small. We have in fact encountered no practical difficulties in the implementation of this scheme.

In July 1970 with the agreement of the general practitioners in the Division, arrangements were made for requests for the nursing care of patients discharged from hospital to be received by their receptionists, for transmission to the district nursing staff attached to the practices. This change in procedure was accomplished very smoothly. The arrangements have worked well, and have resulted in a close liaison between the general practitioner and the local authority health services, which has been of benefit both to the patients and to those concerned with their care. It is expected that enquiries concerning special problems relating to the nursing care of patients to be discharged from hospital and requests for special items of nursing equipment will continue to be directed to the Divisional Nursing Officer, and it is known that the Divisional Health Office staff are available to take and pass on messages to nursing staff if any difficulty should arise. There was also a marked increase in the work done in doctors surgeries, partly due to the opening of purpose built surgery premises by a further two group practices in March and October, 1970. In addition 95 special sessions were attended in doctors surgeries. These included family planning and obesity clinics.

Day Centre for the Elderly, Welwyn Garden City

Following a recommendation to the Welwyn Garden City Old Peoples Welfare Committee by the Divisional Social Worker, a Day Centre for inform elderly people who are not members of the social clubs in the town was set up in April, 1970. The Centre is run under the auspices of an organising committee which is a permanent committee of the Old Peoples Welfare Committee, the daily programme consisting of a hot drink on arrival, about an hour's activity under the supervision of a voluntary physiotherapist, lunch followed by a programme of social and recreational activity in the afternoon with a cup of tea before departure. The club, with a membership of sixteen, meets on Wednesday of each week in the hall of the Free Church, transport being provided by the W.R.V.S. mini-bus.

In addition to the above club there has been an extension of group social work schemes for the elderly and handicapped throughout the Division under the guidance of Miss Sturton. Special mention should be made of the group for blind and partially sighted clients in Welwyn Garden City, a group at Hatfield for housewives with emotional problems and an evening activity group for former drug users also in Hatfield. The support and practical help given by the Churches and voluntary societies has been of great assistance to the Social Workers in forming these groups.

Drug Taking in Mid Hertfordshire - 1970

While there was no major extension of the drug problem in Mid Hertfordshire during the year, experimentation and misuse of a wide variety of drugs continued to be prevalent particularly in the South Hatfield and Welham Green areas. It is to be expected that the local scene will reflect the situation in the central London area for it depends largely upon the availability of drugs there, but it is disturbing to know that the County Police Department still regard Mid Herts. as a continuing endemic area for drug taking with many direct links with drug taking groups in the Provinces.

Earlier in the year there was public concern in Hatfield at the activities of a group of young men seen to be injecting themselves with drugs in White Lion Square and public lavatories in the centre of the town, particularly at the harmful effects of this public display of drug taking upon children and other young persons. Enquiry showed that the members of the group were mainly young men registered at the local Addiction Centre in Welwyn Garden City who were issued with their supply of Physeptone at the chemist in White Lion Square, and so an attempt was made to provide facilities for the injection of the drugs in a room on the ground floor of the nearby Queensway Health Centre. Unfortunately the ebullient behaviour of the group soon showed that it is not advisable for such a service to be provided at the ordinary Health Centre although the room was not seriously lisused or left in an untidy state. The use of alternative premises near the Town Centre, where facilities required could be provided independently of the other Health Centre activities, and yet still under supervsiion, was considered to be necessary but within a few weeks the problem solved itself as the number of young people injecting themselves rapidly declined and the public concern abated.

Throughout the year Cannabis smoking, mainly at week-ends by groups of young people, was reported from time to time, but Heroin and the more serious forms of addictive drugs remained in scarce supply, although tending to become more readily available in the London Area at the end of the year. Experimenting with LSD led to acute mental upset in two young men. In South Hatfield and Welham Green a few suspected drug takers exerted a baneful influence on school children aged 14 - 16, particularly young girls about to leave school. The staffs of all Secondary Schools in the area were notified of these dangers and advised to warn their senior pupils of the risk incurred in associating with cannabis smoking or drug taking groups.

Following the circular letter from the British Medical Association to all members in the Autumn recommending a voluntary ban on the prescribing of amphetamines and barbiturate preparations to persons under 25 years of age, the matter was discussed at local meetings. Although total agreement to such a voluntary ban was not acceptable to some practitioners, the majority expressed approval, and pharmacists reported

a considerable reduction in the amounts of these drugs prescribed. The Committee were informed that the contents of pocket type inhalers had been modified to exclude amphetamines and while one member of the Liaison Committee expressed concern at the open sale of these inhalers at chemists shops, the pharmaceutical representatives reported no evidence of misuse or rise in sales.

The Queen Elizabeth II Hospital continued to play a major role in the investigation treatment and support of drug takers in the area in conjunction with the addiction clinic and the work of the social workers in the domiciliary field. The number of young persons admitted to hospital for treatment showed wide variation from month to month but declined from 6 - 8 in the summer to 3 - 4 by the end of the year. Attendances at the Addiction Clinic steadily declined over the year to a weekly average of eight patients in varying stages of withdrawal from addictive drugs. While it is difficult to ensure that drug takers registered as attending the Welwyn Garden City Addiction Centre are not also attending treatment centres in the London area, it is obviously desirable for any registered addict for whom heroin is prescribed at a London treatment centre to obtain his supply of the drug from a chemist in the London area to reduce the risks arising from heroin again being dispensed in Mid Hertfordshire.

By the end of the year a group of eight former drug takers were in residence at Roe Hill House with regular staff meetings and group discussions to define more precisely the roles of the staff and advisers and the most effective means of providing support and gaining the interest and participation of the residents in projects and activities. The development of group activities has been delayed by staff changes but the Richmond Fellowship are hoping shortly to bring the staff up to full establishment so that the recommendations of the professional advisory group can be fully implemented. It is reassuring to know that the majority of the residents are maintaining full time employment in Hatfield and no major problems of management have arisen at the hostel.

The working party continues to be active in promoting publicity on the dangers of drug addiction particularly in assisting the Health and Social Services Department Staff in arranging talks and discussions in schools and also the occasional public meeting. Through its professional voluntary members a considerable number of personal consultations and interviews with former addicts are maintained providing much useful information on the problems and reactions of the young drug takers in the area, in conjunction with the work of the hospital and Local Authority staffs. The parents group continues to meet regularly encouraging parents to play their full part in providing support and understanding by the family of the young drug takers problems in the difficult period of adjustment to a more regular way of life.

Marriage Guidance

Marriage guidance work throughout the Division continued its gradual expansion during 1970 with increased financial support from the County Council and District Councils, and the training of new counsellors and helpers. The Mid-Herts Marriage Guidance Council has regular counselling sessions at Gooseacre and Parkway Health Centres in Welwyn Garden City, Queensway Health Centre in Hatfield and at the Civic Centre in Welwyn while the needs of the Potters Bar area are met from the Barnet Marriage Guidance Council.

Particular attention has been paid during the year to the development of the educational work in schools and colleges, and discussions have been held with the Health Education Officers of the County Health Department with a view to joint participation in educational programmes in schools. There is growing awareness of the importance of free discussion of aspects of human relationships and social adjustment by the senior pupils in schools and colleges which has resulted in greater freedom for the education counsellors to lead continuing discussion groups with young people as part of a well arranged comprehensive programme rather than the restrictive three or four sessions formerly the rule. The pattern of marriage counselling was changed during the year to provide day time appointments as an alternative to evening counselling. The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council now has a total of thirteen counsellors who give thirty hours weekly to their marriage counselling work.

Family Planning Clinics

Family planning sessions are now flourishing and popular at each major health centre throughout the Division, those at Hatfield and Potters Bar being arranged by the Herts and Beds Branch of the Family Planning Association and the clinics in Welwyn Garden City and at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital by the independent local family planning clinic.

The increased range of contraceptive means now available, particularly the contraceptive pill and the intra uterine device, as well as the older and well tried methods calls for a high standard of clinical knowledge in the doctors and nursing team who give such regular and devoted service at these sessions. All women attending can be assured of sound practical advice from well trained and experienced teams of doctors and nurses. In these days, more young women come to the clinics seeking contraceptive advice and although this may at times give rise to some doubts on ethical and moral grounds, the decision whether such advice is given can with confidence be left to the doctor in charge of the clinic. The aims of those interested in family planning are firstly, that men and women should have the opportunity to have babies when they wish to have them and not by accident, and secondly that babies are born into families that have sound and honest relationships so that the social and psychological hazards that exist today are reduced to a minimum and the children grow up in a secure environment in which they can develop to the maximum of their physical

and emotional potential. It would seem therefore to be a mistake to defer making this knowledge available to young women at a time when we see the number of illegitimate births and the demands for abortions steadily increasing.

The Family Planning Association are considering the need for an additional session at The Elms Health Centre, Potters Bar, and the heavy attendances at Welwyn Garden City on Monday evenings may lead to an additional session being provided for the town.

Infant Welfare Centres - Days and Times

GOOSEACRE HEALTH CENTRE
Cole Green Lane,
Welwyn Garden City.

(Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.)

PARKWAY HEALTH CENTRE
Parkway,
Welwyn Garden City.

(Wednesday and Thursday
2 - 4 p.m.)

PANSHANGER INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
Daniells,
Welwyn Garden City

(Monday 2 - 4 p.m.)

VIADUCT HEALTH CENTRE,
Sewells,
Welwyn Garden City.

(Tuesday and Wednesday
2 - 4 p.m.)

WOOLMER GREEN INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
Village Hall,
Woolmer Green.

(Thursday 1st and 3rd in month
2 - 4 p.m.)

QUEENSWAY HEALTH CENTRE,
Queensway,
Hatfield.

(Tuesday, Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.
Thursday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.)

HILLTOP INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
Bishops Rise,
Hatfield.

(Friday 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. and
2 - 4 p.m.)

WELWYN HEALTH CENTRE,
Civic Centre,
Prospect Place,
Welwyn.

(Friday 2 - 4 p.m.)

ESSENDON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
Village Hall,
Essendon

(Thursday 2nd and 4th in month
2 - 4 p.m.)

BROOKMANS PARK INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
Brookmans Park Hotel Annexe,
Brookmans Park,
Hatfield.

(Monday 1st and 3rd in month
2 - 4 p.m.)

CUFFLEY INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
'Undercroft',
St. Andrew's Church Hall,
Cuffley.

(Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.)

THE ELMS HEALTH CENTRE,
High Street,
Potters Bar.

(Monday and Wednesday
2 - 4 p.m.)

CRANBORNE HEALTH CENTRE,
Mutton Lane,
Potters Bar.

(Tuesday and Thursday
2 - 4 p.m.)

NORTH MYMMS INFANT WELFARE CENTRE,
Memorial Hall,
Station Road,
North Mymms.

(Thursday 2 - 4 p.m.)